

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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S E C R E T THE HAGUE 2409

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, NL

SUBJ: SPAIN AND NATO: VIEWS OF SPANISH AMBASSADOR

REF: THE HAGUE 2271

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST THAT HE GIVE THE AMBASSADOR HIS VIEW OF THE DUTCH-SPANISH RELATIONSHIP, RAMON SEDO, SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS, STATED FRANKLY THAT AS LONG AS FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL REMAINS IN HIS POSITION OR UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FRANCO DEPARTS THE SCENE AND THE SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY OBTAINS SOME TYPE OF LEGITIMACY, HE DOUBTS THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT GON ATTITUDE TOWARDS SPAIN.

2. HE OBSERVED THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SCHMELZER (OF THE CATHOLIC PARTY) HAD BEEN FAR EASIER TO GET ALONG WITH THAN VAN DER STOEL WHOM HE CONSIDERS PARTICULARLY DOCTRINAIRE AND UNYIELDING IN CONTRADISTINCTION TO PM DEN UYL WHOM HE SEES AS A POLITICIAN OF FLEXIBILITY. NONETHELESS, SEDO CONTINUED, A CHANGE IN THE GON WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ALTER DUTCH POLICY TOWARDS SPAIN, FOR HE SENSES A KIND OF ENDEMIC HOSTILITY HERE TO THINGS SPANISH WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A VESTIGAL, INNATE RANCOR FROM THE 80 YEARS WAR. BUT THE GREATEST ANIMOSITY LIES

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WITH THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY AND OTHER SOCIALISTS WHOM HE

DESCRIBED AS BEING PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO THE SPANISH SOCIALIST ORGANIZATIONS. THE EXIT OF FRANCO ALONE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO ALTER DUTCH POLICY.

3. SEDO THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT THE SPANISH ESTABLISHMENT SENSES ITSELF MORE THREATENED FROM WITHIN THAN FROM WITHOUT AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY NATO MEMBERSHIP WAS OF NO GREAT MOMENT TO SPAIN. IT ALSO LED HIM TO DOUBT THE LIKELIHOOD OF CONCESSIONS BEING GRANTED WILLINGLY TO SPANISH SOCIALISTS BY THE POST-FRANCO POWER STRUCTURE.

4. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR ASKED HIM HOW TO EXPLAIN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING DUTCH ACQUIESCENCE IN THE EC ASSOCIATION WITH SPAIN, SEDO REPLIED THAT THIS WAS PART OF THE DUTCH PARADOX, REFLECTING THEIR MANNER OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. ASKED THE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE DUTCH MIGHT BE PRSUADED TO GO ALONG WITH A SIMILAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN, SEDO REPLIED NEGATIVELY, AND HE OFFERED NO SUGGESTION AS TO HOW THE DUTCH ATTITUDE TOWARD SPAIN COULD BE CHANGED SO LONG AS VAN DER STOEL REMAINS AS FONMIN OR UNTIL THE SPANISH LEFT REAPPEARS IN A LEGITIMATE ROLE.

5. WHILE SEDO IS A SEASONED DIPLOMAT AND INTELLIGENT OBSERVER, WE DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ASSIDUOUS IN PROBING INTO ALL ANGLES OF THIS COMPLEX QUESTION. MOREOVER, A HEART ATTACK SIDELINED HIM CONSIDERABLY LAST YEAR. WE FEEL, IN SUM, THAT AS INDICATED IN REFTEL THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES WHICH HE MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY OR EXPLORED.

6. DEPT PLEASE REPEAT THIS MESSAGE AS DESIRED.
TANGUY

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